

# Adoption Application – Dog



## East Haven Animal Shelter

183 Commerce Street • East Haven, CT 06512  
Phone: (203) 468-3249 • web: [www.ehasct.com](http://www.ehasct.com)

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Please complete all sections of this adoption application. Failure to do so may disqualify you from adopting a dog. Please return the application to the attention of the dog's contact person listed in the biography. For faster response, we suggest you email your application.

PLEASE ALLOW A MINIMUM OF 48 HOURS FOR THE REVIEW AND APPROVAL PROCESS TO BE COMPLETED. Sometimes due to workload, it may take longer than 48 hours. We do our best to process applications quickly.

We are NOT a first come first served shelter. We reserve the right to choose the home that best suits the dog. *Submission of an adoption application is not a guarantee of approval to adopt a pet.*

Applicant's Name:	
Email Address:	
Preferred Phone Number:	
Dog Interested in:	

**Please proceed to next page →  
Do Not Write Below. For Office Use Only**

Date Received:		
Person Checking Application:		
Vet Reference Checked:		
Personal Reference Checked:		
Application Status	<input type="checkbox"/> Approved	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Approved
Reason Not Approved		
Date	Signature of Staff Member	

<b>Name &amp; ID Number of Dog:</b>			
How did you find out about this dog?			
Why do you want this particular dog?			
<b>Name of Applicant:</b>			
Street:			
City:		State & Zip	
Email Address			
Home Phone:		Hours:	
Work Phone:		Hours:	
Cell Phone:		Hours:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Own <i>(Attach proof of ownership such as current property tax bill or homeowner's insurance rider or bring with you if asked to come meet the dog.)</i>			
<input type="checkbox"/> Rent <i>(Attach written permission from your landlord stating that you are allowed to keep a dog and a signed copy of your lease or bring with you if asked to come meet the dog.)</i>			
<b>References</b>	Note: If you have ever worked with a dog trainer, give us his/her name also.		
<b>Current Veterinarian</b> <i>(Note: if you do not currently have a veterinarian, list the name of the vet you previously used and any names under which you used the vet.)</i>			
Vet Phone:		Address:	
<b>Reference Name:</b>		Phone:	
Address:			
Relationship to you:			
<b>Dog Trainer Name:</b>		Phone:	
Address:			

### About your experience with companion animals.

Please tell us about any current pets or any you owned as an adult.

Name	Breed	Age	Spayed? Neutered?	On Heartworm & flea preventative?	Still Own?
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

If you no longer own any of the pets listed, where are they now?

If you gave up a pet, how did you place these pets?

If any of the pets are deceased, how did they die?

Have you ever lost a pet to:  poisoning  shooting  hit by car

If yes, explain:

How do you think your current pets respond to an addition to the family?

Have you ever introduced a new pet into your household?  Yes  No

If you owned a dog in the past, what did you like most about pet ownership?

What did you like least about pet ownership?

Under what circumstances would you justify giving up your pets?

If this is your first pet, what do you estimate the annual cost for care?

**Caring for your dog:**

Who will be the primary caregiver for this pet?

What is your work schedule?

How much company will your pet have during the day?

Will you pet live inside or outside?

Where will your dog be while you are away at work, errands etc.

Do you have a fenced in yard or an electronic fencing system?  Yes  No

If yes, describe type of fence and height:

Do you have an in-ground pool?  Yes  No

If yes, is it or will it be secured to prevent access by your dog?  Yes  No

How will you exercise the dog?

Do you have a crate of adequate size for the dog or are you willing to buy one prior to adoption?  Yes  No

Are you willing to crate a dog to prevent housebreaking accidents and/or destructive behavior when you cannot supervise the dog?  Yes  No

Are you willing to housebreak a dog?  Yes  No

Are you willing to take a dog for training?  Yes  No

If you have behavior problems with the dog such as jumping, barking, housebreaking issues, what steps will you take to resolve the problem(s)?

Return the dog  Punish the dog  Call the shelter  
 Make an appt with a trainer  Keep dog outside  Work with the dog

How many people live in your house?

No of Adults: \_\_\_\_\_ No. of Children: \_\_\_\_\_ Ages of children:

If you do not have children, do children visit your home?  Yes  No

Is everyone in your home in agreement with adopting this pet?  Yes  No

If No, please explain:

My signature indicates that I am over 21 years of age and intend to be the legal owner and person responsible for the care and well-being of any pet I adopt. Submission of this application permits the shelter to contact my veterinarian, personal references, and the animal control officer in my town. **If I can no longer keep the dog, I agree to return it to the East Haven Animal Shelter.**

Your Signature:	Signature indicates I have read & kept article "Important Suggestions for Bringing Your New Dog Home."
Printed Name:	Date:

# Important Suggestions for Bringing Your New Dog Home

(Please KEEP and read this important article.)

## The Important Adjustment Period

Give your new dog time to adjust to his/her new home. It takes dogs at least a month to feel comfortable and to show their true personality. In the meantime, it is very important to set house rules for your dog. Do not coddle and baby your shelter dog because you feel sorry for him/her. Not all shelter dogs were abused and neglected. Even if they were, coddling them does more damage than good. Coddling or petting a scared or growling dog actually praises the behavior the dog is showing at that moment - fear and or growling and aggression.

Do NOT let your new dog have free run of the house. Use a crate and treat the dog as if it were an 8-week-old puppy.

Do NOT let the dog up on your bed and the furniture. Some dogs perceive this as meaning they are at a higher status than you are. Some dogs will begin to challenge you for the bed and furniture.

Instead, be kind, gentle, and patient and set house rules for your new dog right from the start so he/she knows what to expect.

## Basic Suggestions for When You First Arrive Home

- 1. If you have other dogs, leave them inside the house when you arrive. If you have a cat, it too should be in the house.**
- 2. Leash walk your new dog outside for at least 10-15 minutes or until he relieves himself. Always keep your new pet on leash, even in a fenced yard.** Let him get the "lay of the land" by sniffing and becoming acquainted with all the smells associated with your yard.
- 3. Your new dog will be nervous and excited when he first comes home. Therefore, withhold food and water until he begins to relax.** Otherwise, the dog may vomit. It is better to offer a few cracked/chipped ice cubes instead of water. Nervous dogs have a tendency to drink too much water too quickly causing them to throw it up.

## New Dog Meets Old Dog

The meeting between dogs may have gone wonderfully on the neutral turf of the shelter. *On home turf, the reaction from either or both dogs may be different.* This difference is because you are now bringing another dog into your current dog's home turf.

- 1. Meeting outside (preferably in a fenced yard) can be less threatening for canine introductions.** Set it up so this can be done.
- 2. Both dogs must be on leash** and wearing secure buckle collars, training collars or Gentle Leaders for better control during the introductions.
- 3. Introduce each dog one at a time.** Do not force a confrontation! Give them time to approach each other on their own terms.
- 4. If there is any sign of hostility, remind the hostile dog in a firm tone "Be Nice". Keep the pressure OFF the leash.** You must be matter of fact - not worried. YOU are in control and must be aware of their body language. Don't be concerned if they don't warm up to each other immediately. Give encouragement for good behavior. (Good -be nice.)

**As hard as it may be, try not to be nervous yourself, or you will telegraph it to the dogs.** Your dog may feel you are in need of being defended from the new dog or even visa versa.

**If they engage in a fight, do not try to pull them apart with the leashes if the leashes have become entangled.** Often times, the leashes become wrapped and all you end up doing is forcing them closer together. If that happens, drop one or both of the leashes so the dogs can move away from each other. Then grab the leashes again. The importance of doing introductions in a fenced area becomes obvious. If you have to drop the leashes, neither dog can escape the yard.

5. **As each dog becomes comfortable with the other, you can drop the leashes (if in a fenced environment).** Keep the leashes on so you can more easily grab one and make a "point" quickly if needed.
6. **As the dogs come inside, you may find this tighter, more personal space will cause a squabble or two, so you may still want to leave the leashes on for quick control.**

### **Introducing Your New Dog to Your Cat**

1. **You will need a more controlled environment to introduce your new dog to your cat. Do not introduce them the minute you get home.** If you were told the dog gets along with cats, it doesn't mean your cat and new dog will instantly become friends. It takes time and it is your job to keep both of them safe. Do not push the interaction. Give them time.
2. **Keep your dog on leash and have him meet the cat safely. It is ideal to put the dog or the cat into a crate and let them meet quietly** - giving each food treats for quietness and calmness.

Being a dog, he will most likely only want to chase the cat if it runs, but occasionally, a stronger prey drive may make the dog more aggressive and the cat can get hurt. Again, speak to your dog to go easy and to be nice.

**Don't ever unleash your dog around your cat until you feel very comfortable with their interactions.** Until you are comfortable, don't leave the dog and cat alone unsupervised.

### **Meeting Family and Friends**

1. **New human introductions should also be made one at a time; preferably on leash for extra control should it be needed.**
2. **Let the dog take the initiative to greet the new person.** Don't let people run up to the dog and force themselves on it. The dog may want to sniff the person first, before any petting is done. Be prepared because your dog might try to jump up on the new person. Just ask that person to step away until the dog sits. If the dog tries to jump up again, repeat until he sits. Do not pet the dog when it is jumping up. Have treats ready to reward for a nice sit - pass the treat to the friend so they can give the reward.
3. **Take your cues from your new dog.** How comfortable does he appear with all of this extra attention? Many dogs are real hams and love to be engulfed by people and attention -for them, the more the merrier with new people. Other dogs may be a bit overwhelmed with their new situation. Common sense should rule the day.